Sandy Island

Established 1899

Director's Report

October 1990

SANDY ISLAND - 1990

THE YEAR IN REVIEW

As we complete the beginning of this new decade at Sandy with the summer of 1990, our hopes for the future of our island remain very positive. It was a good summer, with a full camp, warm weather, a wonderful staff, and many many happy campers. The state of the economy in the northeast did not affect us too adversely, although our waiting lists were shorter than in preceding years. Campers find Sandy still somewhat of a bargain compared to other vacation options, particularly in the Lakes Region. Because of the economy and its effect on summer employment we had many more staff applications than normal. All in all it was a great summer. We did not have any major problems other than the normal ones associated with the operation of a camp. This was my eighth summer as Director at Sandy Island and my 31st in Greater Boston Y.M.C.A. camping.

Behind the Scenes

1990 brought many improvements at Sandy which are not always visible to the campers, but are recognized by the staff and in general serve to make Sandy a better and longer-lasting camping facility. Because of the fact that we own everything on the island including all the utilities, electrical, propane and telephone, we have the responsibility for maintenance and replacement when necessary. This year we accomplished the following:

a. Put in new poles, lines and transformers in our high-powered electrical system from North Dock to Beach Lav to the Kitchen.

b. Put in a new 24-pair telephone cable.

c. Moved the propane tanks from next to the Kitchen to a location 35 feet away. We replaced 2 more propane hot water heaters at Beach Lav and the Craft Shop.

d. Replaced the septic tank at the Lodge. This heavily used toilet facility was always a problem. This year we completed the season with no problems.

3. Added a second pay phone, alleviating the problem of long waits for the phone.

f. Put in a telephone pole and ran electric lines to the staff cottages West Wind and Moon Shadow.

Another slightly more visible improvement was the addition of a computer to our office. This enabled us to do all of our registrations, camper placement, lists and mailings with a much easier and more accurate system. We bought a Commodore 128 system and it works well for us. David Todaro designed and wrote all the programs for us, and was our resident computer consultant in addition to all his regular duties as Assistant Mechanic, and we thank him for all his help.

We also continued to improve the beach road, which is a very visible improvement. With drainage ditches, pipes and the addition of gravel and stones we made good progress in eliminating some of the muddy road, but there is more to do in the future.

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THE GREATER BOSTON YMCA MISSION AND SANDY ISLAND

I thought it would be interesting to take a look at the Greater Boston YMCA Mission Statement and reflect on how it applies to the Sandy Island experience.

Greater Boston YMCA Mission Statement

"The Greater Boston YMCA is a charitable Association dedicated to building healthy body, mind and spirit. Part of a worldwide movement, it puts Christian principles into practice through programs that promote good health, strong families, youth leadership, community development and International understanding.

The Greater Boston YMCA is open to men, women and children of all ages, incomes, abilities, races and religions."

The first sentence refers to building healthy body, mind and spirit. Here at Sandy I believe we spend a lot of time in the areas of body and spirit. I'm not so sure we develop the intellect as much.

Concerning the second statement, we also do well at promoting health, strong families, youth leadership, community and some international understanding through our foreign counselor program.

All in all I feel we fulfill the Y.M.C.A. mission on practically all points.

Sandy Island is a great place and we get a lot of positive feedback from the campers concerning the feelings they have developed for the camp.

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

The Capital Campaign is now completed and we have raised approximately $190,000, $10,000 short of our goal of $200,000.

A beautiful plaque honoring the 460 contributors was put up in the Lodge. This fall Al Stewart made a glass case to protect the surface of the plaque.

Many thanks go to everyone who made a contribution to this fund-raising effort.

PATTERSON MEMORIAL

With the funds collected last year, a Bob Patterson Memorial was established. Each year the outstanding male and female staff member will be selected by the staff executive committee. Their names will be inscribed on the main plaque in the store, and each person selected receives a small plaque and an award of $100.

This year's recipients were Libby Bacigalupo from the Dining Hall staff, and Michael Smith from the Service Crew. Both were first year staff members.

TWO NEW CABINS BUILT THIS YEAR

Stay A While - formerly a 2-3 person cabin had its name changed to Happy Nest, and was replaced by a new 4-6 person cabin built by the original sponsor, Isabel McShane. This new cabin will retain the name Stay A While. The cabin was completed just in time to be used all summer. It is built exactly like Blue Jay and 77 Sandy Strip.

Moonshadow is a new 6-person staff cottage built on the west side of the island next to Sunset View. Moonshadow housed Joe Tenczar and Pat Moriarty from the waterfront staff and their 4 children. It is presently being completed and stained.

A VISIT FROM U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT

During the 5th week of camp a reporter and photographer from U. S. News and World Report in Washington, D.C. spent two days with us at camp. They are doing an article on family camping, featuring 3 or 4 family camps across the country. The article is due to appear in one of their February issues. The reporter interviewed several camper families. He was interested in finding out what makes each camp unique and different from the others. The photographer kept very busy taking 36 rolls of film.

It will be interesting to see how we are depicted. Be sure to watch for the article!

Also, we have been told that we will be in an article in the December issue of Parenting Magazine. They did not visit the camp but did a lot of interviewing over the phone.

RUSSIAN GIRLS' BASKETBALL TEAM VISITS SANDY

This summer a high school girls' basketball team from Russia stopped in for a brief visit to Sandy and the Lakes Region.

My neighbor from Londonderry, Doug DeCosta was instrumental in establishing an exchange visit between Londonderry and a Russian city. He asked if we could take the girls on a short boat ride on Lake Winnipesaukee in conjunction with their day trip to the White Mountains.We did this and also fed them lunch. After lunch they all took a swim at our Sandy beach. They gave us pins and many thanks for hosting them.

SANTOS MEMORIAL BUILDING

This past winter one of our Sandy camper families suffered a tragedy. Paul Santos, a 4th and 5th week camper lost his wife and all three of his children in an automobile accident while returning from a skiing trip to the White Mountains.

Campers from Week 4 & 5 organized a fund-raising effort in the Santos' memory. Paul returned to camp this year, and brought his brother and his family and his mother-in-law with him for the two weeks.

While at camp we had a meeting with the family and the organizers of the fund-raising to decide what to do about an appropriate memorial with the money that was collected.

It was decided to erect a small octagonal building in the old croquet area. This building will be a children's library and nature center, and be the starting place for a newly designated nature trail.

Work began the last week of camp and continued during the fall. We hope that it will be ready for use in July, 1991.

CAMP CONCERNS

Operating a camp is fulfilling, challenging, and a lot of fun, but it is not without a few problems.

I thought it would be realistic to touch on some of these that we are faced with each year, and which occupied some of our time this season.

Each year we have to deal with broken equipment, septic system failures, loss of electricity, rainy weather, camper cancellations, young and inexperienced staff, complaints by campers and staff social problems.

This season many of these areas have been showing improvement or have almost been eliminated. Malfunctioning equipment has been replaced, 2 vehicles were added, and we have our new Sandy II. There are new electric and phone lines and improvements to our septic system. This summer there were very few camper complaints.

However, remaining to be dealt with were: a) young staff, with related social problems; b) increased camper cancellations; and c) an overpopulation of raccoons on the island.

We spent a great deal of time on staff and, in some instances, camper social problems, especially in the area of alcohol. Drinking has become a real problem for us at camp just as it is in the schools. The problem is being addressed by everyone, parents, churches, schools and, yes, here at camp also. We have talks, followed by disciplinary action, followed by dismissal if the problem continues or reaches the uncontrolled stage.

The raccoon problem is being handled by relocation and by nature. The camper cancellation problem hopefully will be handled by an improvement in the economy by Mr. Bush, and Mr. Weld or Mr. Silber - and by U.S. News & World Report.

We work very hard to keep our problems small and under control.

GROUP RENTALS

1990 was the most productive year yet for pre-season and post-season group rentals. In all, 7 groups used our facilities as follows:

DATE	GROUP	NUMBER
May 26-28	Newton Unitarian Church	181
June 2-3	Needham YMCA Indian Guides	80
June 9-10	Lexington Unitarian Church	70
June 16-17	Boston YMCA International Group	72
June 29-July 1	Suzuki Music Camp	130
Sept. 8-9	Church Singles Group	73
Sept. 15-16	Westgate Church	103

We were fortunate to find chefs for both pre-season and post-season. Finding chefs as well as other staff for these weekend groups may continue to be a problem for us.

Extending pre-season use of the island and shortening post-season use makes a lot of sense in the Lakes Region area. For the most part we get a better break with the weather, especially in having warm nights.

1990 SANDY STAFF

Director - Nate Todaro

Assistant Director - Rus Carlsten

Program Staff

W.F. Mgr. - Joe Tenczar
Craft Shop - Claire Gingras
Tennis - Carole Carlsten
Schoolhouse - Pat Carney
Jr. Program - David Bloom
WF - Cindy Carter
WF - April Cotte
WF - Angelo Firenze
CAVE - Patty Flaherty
WF - Josh Fraser
WF - Francis Gingras
WF - Brian Maziarz
Asst. Tennis - Alastair Moock
Asst. Schoolhouse - Rachel Cook
WF - Karen Morgan
WF - Pat Moriarty
Music - Christine O'Neill
Craft Shop - Sue Stewart
Craft Shop - Kristin Tepper
Craft Shop - Kim Tinstman

Operations

Office Sup. - Carole Todaro
Office - Linda Pacheco
Nurse - Chris Tinstman
Store - Beth Wolfe
Store - Gloria Lopes

Kitchen Staff

Chef - Don Migliaro
Baker - Nancy Cook
Dining Room - Kathy Stucchi
Libby Bacigalupo
Alisa Bonardi
Jeff Kurzweil
Colin Leonard
Brian Logue
Noah Lydiard
Chris Priore
Lance Tinstman
Catharine Wickes
Vanderley Bastos
Eduardo Agostino

Service Crew

Mgr. - Wayne Griffin
Launchman - George Pacheco
Carpenter - Al Stewart
Asst. Mechanic - David Todaro
Boat Crew Chief - Michael Smith
Land Crew Chief - Brett Rogers
Ari Adler
Zack Bressler
Chris Cook
Rob Frisbie
Dakota LaCroix

PURCHASES AND PROJECTS COMPLETED IN 1990

1. Repaired the lagoon bank
2. Ditched the low area behind Beach Lav
3. Put in new 1000 gal septic tank for the Lodge
4. Purchased portable septic pump
5. Pruchased two new septic pumps
6. Installed new vinyl floor in South Lav
7. Installed new showers and sinks in Beach Lav
8. Converted gas hot water to electric in Beach Lav
9. Added gravel and 1 load of stone on beach road
10. Bob Fraser donated an '84 blue Dodge van to the camp
11. Purchased '77 green Dodge pickup truck
12. Built "Moonshadow" on the west side - staff cottage for 6
13. Installed new high tension electric line, 2 transformers and 4 poles
14. Replaced old telephone lines with new 24-pair cable
15. Put in new type sprinkler heads on the tennis court and added one more - making a total of 10
16. Repaired our old chaise longues with 5 more donated by Bill Lafleur
17. Built concrete pad and moved the propane tanks away from the Kitchen
18. Replaced the following decks with pressure-treated lumber: Kitchen, Schoolhouse, and Menagerie
19. Painted railing and steps on the Lodge porch
20. Purchased new lines and buoys for the Waterfront and rebuilt the children's raft
21. Acquired a computer, monitor and printer with disk drive and a complete software program for camp registration and use
22. Purchased a pre-amp and mixer for the Lodge sound system
23. The Big Sandy engine was overhauled, with the work donated by a camper, Will Shattuck
24. Purchased a new 3-bay pot sink
25. Built shelves in the Lodge and Kitchen
26. Four folding adirondack chairs and some benches were donated by Doc Anderson
27. Purchased 10 beds and mattresses for camper cabins
28. Brought over an 18 hp garden tractor mower from North Woods
29. Purchased Capital Campaign donor plaque
30. Built new porch on Happy Nest
31. Replaced top boards on one side of the tennis court

32. Built 2 new tables for the Bumper Pool games
33. Built 4 new camper docks
34. New electric hot water heater in the Craft Shop
35. Purchased four new postcards for the store - 1000 of each

THINGS TO DO IN 1991

1. Dredge around the Sandy dock at North Woods
2. Finish repairing Beach Lav
3. Build Twin Oaks (staff quarters)
4. Replace 4-6 more camper cabin docks
5. Work on fence around tennis courts
6. Refinish floor in Craft Shop
7. Purchase 36 dining hall chairs
8. Build 4 dining hall tables
9. Purchase 1-2 new sailboats
10. Work on ball field - remove rocks
11. Build basketball/volleyball deck
12. Purchase 10 beds and mattresses for camper cabins
13. Purchase new bocce ball sets
14. Stain and paint camper cottages
15. Build 4-5 new camper porches
16. Purchase 3 new portacribs
17. Purchase some aluminum rowboat dock sections

THANK YOU

The following people attended our pre-season Work Weekends and helped to accomplish many needed improvements. They also helped to get the camp ready to open. The Greater Boston Y.M.C.A. and Sandy Island appreciate their help, support, and donations.

WEEKEND OF MAY 12 & 13

Carole Todaro
Doug & Eileen Chisholm
Mary Driscoll
Ed & Claire Gingras
Pat Carney
Dan & Nancy Fritz
Fran Gingras
Peter Cotte
Dan & Kathy Cotte
Angelo Firenze
Will & Gloria Lee
Tim O'Hara

PROJECTS

Tennis Courts
Cabin Cleanup
Brush Work & Cleanup
Paint & Stain Cabins
Beach Lav work
West Side Cottage work

WEEKEND OF MAY 19 & 20

Wayne Griffin
Scott Carlsten
Sheryl Nunes
Doug & Eileen Chisholm
Beth & Ed Wolfe
Mary Driscoll
Paul & Barbara Maxwell
Creighton & Betty Vallee
Phil Clarkson & Family
Joe, Erik & Laura Tenczar

PROJECTS

West side cottage
Beach Lav
Mowing
Tennis Courts
Cleaning cabins
Curtains

WEEKEND OF JUNE 2 & 3

Jeff Duquette
Ed Czajowski
Charles Duquette
Jamey Tarcyzinski
Paul & Barbara Maxwell
Mary Driscoll
Doug & Eileen Chisholm

PROJECTS

Playscape
Beach Lav
West side cottage
Brush Cleanup

DONATIONS

Will Shattuck	Rebuilt Big Sandy Engine
Bill Lafleur	3 chests of drawers 5 chaise longues for WF
Jeanne Robillard	Flowers for barrels
Mark Reynolds	Sailboard
James Scanlon	Wood Stove 2 bureaus 2 mirrors
Bob Fraser	Dodge Ram Van
Arthur & Chris Brown	Steps to lake at New Yorker
Dr. Herbert Anderson	4 Adirondack chairs 2 benches

CAMPER ATTENDANCE FOR 9 WEEKS AND LABOR DAY WEEKEND

5 YEAR COMPARISON CHART

WEEK	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990
First	176	166	164	168	165
Second	174	170	165	170	164
Third	165	162	165	170	161
Fourth	166	160	168	173	170
Fifth	176	169	168	180	183
Sixth	184	190	180	193	186
Seventh	183	177	175	176	182
Eighth	185	183	179	181	173
Ninth	155	161	164	163	168
LDW	168	170	175	151	164
Total Attendance	1730	1750	1703	1725	1716
Total Diffent campers	1484	1510	1515	1582	1539

Total Camper Units: 486

CAMPER UNIT BY STATE

Massachusetts	310	Rhode Island	11
New York	41	Virginia	11
New Jersey	21	Vermont	9
Connecticut	39	Delaware	3
Pennsylvania	10	Florida	4
Ohio	4	Maryland	4
New Hampshire	7	Other	12

1990 CAMPER AGE DISTRIBUTION

Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	LDW	Total
AGES:											
0-2	9	2	10	8	9	9	3	3	8	10	71
3-5	12	13	12	13	19	16	12	19	12	18	146
6-8	21	14	8	21	23	15	15	16	23	22	178
9-12	18	21	15	13	24	13	22	14	20	15	175
ADULTS	105	114	116	115	108	133	130	121	105	99	1146
TOTAL	165	164	161	170	183	186	182	173	168	164	1716

FEE STRUCTURE

CATEGORY	For Week	For LDW
TEEN/ADULT (13-)	$270	$110
JUNIOR (9-12)	$215	$90
CAVE (6-8)	$170	$80
PRE-SCHOOL (3-5)	$130	$60
CHILDREN (6 mos. - 2	$80	$40

1985 - 1990

COMPARISON

WEEKLY FEE INCOME

WEEK	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990
Week 1	$24,151	$28,297	$29,827	$30,861	$34,627	$38,612
Week 2	23,630	28,442	32,165	32,976	35,248	39,416
Week 3	25,699	28,668	29,518	32,021	34,210	41,067
Week 4	26,772	28,877	32,022	32,826	39,004	43,096
Week 5	24,800	28,649	31,037	32,456	37,498	41,103
Week 6	27,170	31,774	35,337	35,400	40,065	43,869
Week 7	27,053	31,540	33,224	35,218	40,049	43,830
Week 8	26,413	33,775	34,800	35,410	39,382	41,914
Week 9	24,555	27,320	28,946	30,656	34,878	39,148
LDW	9,920	12,605	12,729	12,818	14,665	15,521
Miscellaneous Fees (Meals, taxis, etc.)	1,150	1,500	1,700	1,920	2,125	2,545
Average weekly income for 9 weeks	25,454	29,705	31,875	33,091	37,218	41,339
Donations to REACHOUT received at camp	3,082	3,800	4,396	3,142	3,366	4,750
Donations to Patterson Memorial Fund					4,085	
Donations to Santos Memorial Fund						1,845